

State of the Heart

Cardiovascular Disease in South Carolina



Burden of Disease:

- Nearly one million Americans die each year from cardiovascular disease (CVD), which includes heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, congestive heart failure, and other diseases of the circulatory system.
- CVD is South Carolina's leading killer for both men and women among all racial and ethnic groups.
- During 2003, 13,151 South Carolinians died from cardiovascular disease – more than the total number of people died from all cancers, pneumonia, influenza, and car accidents combined.
- Heart disease and stroke accounted for 52,557 hospitalizations in South Carolina during 2003, with a total hospitalization cost of more than \$1.5 billion.

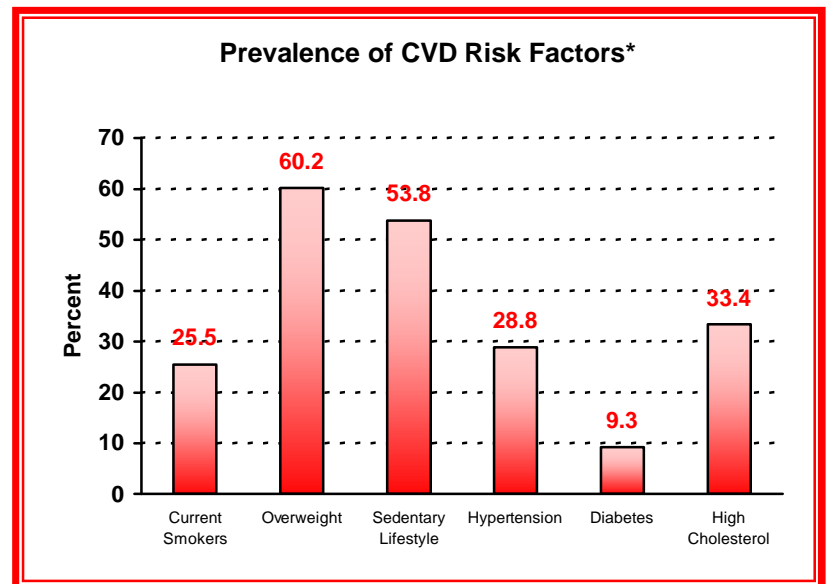
Risk Factors for South Carolinians

Smoking

- Cigarette smokers have a 70 percent greater chance of dying of heart disease than nonsmokers.
- One out of every four adults in South Carolina smokes.
- Smoking contributes to 25 percent of heart disease each year.

Overweight

- Sixty percent of South Carolina adults are overweight or obese.
- Being overweight contributes to 32 percent of heart disease deaths each year.



*Data Source: South Carolina Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System 2003

Sedentary Lifestyle

- Less active, less physically fit persons have a 30 to 50 percent greater risk of developing high blood pressure.
- Physical inactivity contributes to 27 percent of deaths from heart disease annually.
- Approximately 54 percent of adults in South Carolina are irregularly active or inactive.
- Physical inactivity is more common among women than men in South Carolina.

Diabetes

- Two-thirds of people with diabetes die of heart disease or stroke.
- Diabetes contributes to 13 percent of heart disease deaths each year.
- One out of every ten South Carolina adults has diabetes.

High Cholesterol

- Lowering blood cholesterol results in a two-fold reduction of heart disease risk.
- High cholesterol contributes to over 4,000 deaths from heart disease in South Carolina each year.
- High cholesterol affects 33 percent of South Carolina adults.

Hypertension (High Blood Pressure)

- People with hypertension (high blood pressure) have three to four times the risk of developing heart disease than those without high blood pressure.
- High blood pressure contributes to 30 percent of heart disease deaths each year.
- One out of every four adults in South Carolina has high blood pressure.

Estimated Economic Cost of CVD in the United States in 2005
\$241.9 billion in direct costs (i.e., physicians, hospital, medications)
\$151.6 billion in indirect costs (i.e., loss in productivity)

Stroke in South Carolina



Burden of Disease for South Carolinians:

- Stroke is a leading cause of serious, long-term disability in the United States.
- South Carolina had the second highest stroke death rate in the nation in 2001 and is among a group of Southeastern states with high stroke death rates that is referred to as the "Stroke Belt."
- Stroke is the third leading cause of death in South Carolina, resulting in 2,744 deaths during 2003.
- African Americans are more than 50 percent more likely to die from stroke than Caucasians in South Carolina.
- Stroke resulted in 9857 hospitalizations in South Carolina during 2003.

Modifiable Risk Factors for Stroke:

- High blood pressure
- Cigarette smoking
- Diabetes
- Heart disease
- Poor eating habits
- Physical inactivity

How to Reduce Your Risk of Stroke:

- Get your blood pressure checked.
- Stay active.
- Eat a healthy diet.
- Use less salt.
- If you drink alcohol, drink in moderation.
- Get your cholesterol level checked.
- Stay smoke-free.

WARNING SIGNS OF STROKE:

- Sudden weakness or numbness of the face, arm or leg on one side of the body.
- Loss of speech or trouble talking or understanding speech.
- Sudden dimness or loss of vision, particularly in one eye.
- Unexplained dizziness, unsteadiness or sudden falls, with no previous symptoms.
- Sudden, severe headaches with no known cause.

Economic Cost of Stroke:

- Hospitalization costs of stroke totaled more than \$207 million in 2003 for South Carolina.
- The total cost of stroke in the United States for 2005 is estimated at \$56.8 billion (both direct and indirect costs).

For more information on cardiovascular disease prevention in South Carolina contact:

Bureau of Community Health and Chronic Disease Prevention
Division of Cardiovascular Health
1777 St Julian Place
Columbia, SC 29204
(803) 545-4400



Information for this fact sheet was obtained from S.C. BRFSS, S.C. Vital Records, S.C. Hospital Discharge Data, American Heart Association, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.